

MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY
HEALTH

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

{ *October 2006* }



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INTRODUCTION

Since January of 2003, Governor Jennifer Granholm and the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)—under the leadership of its director, Janet Olszewski—have created, implemented, and improved programs to enhance the quality of life for all Michigan residents.

MDCH has taken great strides in making health care accessible to all Michigan citizens while maintaining fiscal responsibility. The administration has enacted effective policies to improve health and overall quality of life for Michigan residents by advocating for a broad spectrum of services.

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MOVING FORWARD

A Three-Tiered Strategy To Improve Health Outcomes

In her 2006 State of the State Address, Governor Granholm proposed a revolutionary new way to address the rising cost of health care in Michigan and the burden it places on our families and our businesses.

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proposed a
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TIER 1: *Michigan First Health Care Plan*

Through this creative strategy to dramatically expand access to quality, affordable health insurance, the Michigan First Health Care Plan will give all uninsured Michigan citizens access to affordable private health care plans without increasing state spending or increasing taxes.

When fully implemented, this plan will help people who do not have access to health insurance through their employer and do not qualify for government programs like Medicaid.

The Governor's plan is guided by principles of fairness and ability to pay, and individuals with low incomes will pay minimal out-of-pocket costs. Everyone will pay something – and people enrolled in the program are expected to increase their contribution as their incomes rise.

Leveraging state, federal and private resources will result in quality, affordable private health insurance becoming available for all uninsured individuals.

More than half a million uninsured Michigan citizens will be eligible to participate. They will choose from private health insurance options that include basic preventative and primary care coverage, emergency room services, hospitalization, mental health care, and prescription drug coverage. The plan is scheduled to be implemented in April 2007.

TIER 2: *Promoting Healthy Lifestyles*

Making health care more affordable and effective also requires citizens committed to making healthy lifestyle changes. There are many steps that people can take, starting with physical activity and better eating habits.

MDCH continues to incorporate the principles promoted by Michigan Surgeon General Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom and the Michigan Steps Up initiative. These include encouraging healthy behaviors such as moving more, eating better, and not smoking.

To date, many Michigan citizens have accessed the Michigan Steps Up website **www.michiganstepsup.org**, creating more than 16,000 personal health plans and more than 1,700 health risk appraisals.



TIER 3: *Advancing Health Information Technology*

The Governor convened the Michigan Health Information Network (MiHIN) in December 2005 to begin a statewide health information infrastructure to advance the use of information and communication technologies. Since then, 200 stakeholders have developed a roadmap for health information exchange in Michigan.

The Governor recently signed legislation creating a Health Information Technology Commission and has appointed the 15-member commission to assist the state in implementing the roadmap.

With this network in place, Michigan will significantly reduce duplicative services and mistakes made by health care professionals due to lack of access to a patient's current health information. Improved patient care will also reduce health care costs.

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The Granholm Administration has ardently fought to preserve Medicaid spending, thus maintaining quality health care services for the most vulnerable people.

Medicaid

Funding Stability and Preserving Eligibility

The Granholm Administration has ardently fought to preserve Medicaid spending, thus maintaining quality health care services for the most vulnerable people.

By preserving Medicaid spending and investing those resources and other funds wisely, MDCH has continued to provide a full range of health care benefits to more than one-and-a-half million Michigan citizens, despite considerable pressure from the Legislature to cut services for children, disabled adults, and seniors.

In addition, with the Governor's guidance and support, the Legislature approved an increase to the state's cigarette tax in 2003 that preserved Medicaid coverage for 200,000 beneficiaries who otherwise would have lost their health care coverage. This move also significantly increased funding for tobacco prevention services.

Increased Value For Every Dollar Spent

Under Governor Granholm's leadership, Michigan has created a number of efficiencies in the state's Medicaid system, including expanded enrollment in managed care programs and aggressive purchasing strategies to reduce prescription drug costs.

In the beginning of her administration, MDCH began to identify disparities throughout Michigan's health care arena and continues to actively work to make health care more affordable, available, and more equitable.

From prenatal to end of life care, MDCH has improved the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of Michigan citizens, despite considerable financial hardship with dwindling resources.

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Multi-State Prescription Drug Pool

In 2003, Governor Granholm first pioneered the now federally titled Michigan Multi-State Prescription Drug Initiative with Governor Douglas of Vermont during a meeting of the National Governors Association.

In March 2003, both Vermont and Michigan began to generate significant levels of savings and rebate revenue as a result of their participation in this ambitious endeavor.

Today, although Vermont has since left the partnership, the multi-state Medicaid initiative has grown to 10 states, including Nevada, New Hampshire, Alaska, Minnesota, Tennessee, Hawaii, Kentucky, Montana, and most recently, New York, which significantly enhances the size of the pool.

Combating Medicaid Fraud

In January 2006, Governor Granholm signed legislation to further address Medicaid fraud by providing incentives for citizens who suspect fraud against Michigan's Medicaid program to come forward and report it to authorities.

Under the law, employers are prohibited from penalizing employees who initiated, assisted, or participated in an investigation or court action under the Medicaid False Claim Act. As an incentive, whistleblowers can be rewarded with a percentage of the recovered funds if a lawsuit is successful.

Since the beginning of the Granholm Administration, MDCH has taken the following steps to ensure that every taxpayer dollar is being spent as it should:

Increased Accountability

- Matching death records with Medicaid eligibility rolls, which is saving the state about \$5 million per year;
- Establishing electronic verification of Medicaid eligibility by health care providers and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan reduced Medicaid costs in that area of the Medicaid program in one year from \$450,000 to \$180,000;
- Renewing a contract to provide revenue recovery and cost containment services for Michigan's Medicaid program. Services provided under this contract—in place since 1994—have recovered more than \$50 million for the state;
- Hiring additional staff to increase surveillance for inappropriate provider billing, and entering into an agreement with the Attorney General's (AG) Office that allows the AG and MDCH to work closely on Medicaid fraud issues.

Healthy Kids Dental Expansion

In March 2006, Governor Granholm announced that a 22-county expansion of the state's Healthy Kids Dental program would ensure that 40,000 additional low-income children receive dental services.

The public/private partnership, which includes Delta Dental and the Michigan Dental Association, did not require additional state funding. Dentists enrolled in Delta Dental graciously agreed to accept the lower of two fee screens paid by Delta Dental.

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Upper Peninsula counties included in the expansion are Baraga, Iron, Marquette, Menominee, Delta, Schoolcraft, and Mackinac. This expansion ensures that every county in the Upper Peninsula now has Healthy Kids Dental coverage.

Lower Peninsula counties included in the expansion were Presque Isle, Alpena, Montmorency, Ostego, Antrim, Leelanau, Benzie, Manistee, Kalkaska, Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, Ogemaw, Missaukee, and Lake.

Residents in 59 out of 83 Michigan counties now have access to Healthy Kids Dental coverage.

Improving The Health Landscape For Michigan's Uninsured Citizens

Addressing the issue of the uninsured has never been more important, which is why Governor Granholm has encouraged emphasis on this critical issue. In 2005, Michigan received a \$1 million federal grant to tackle the problem.

After a year of conducting research and building consensus around this issue, a 30-member Advisory Council released its recommendations to increase access to health insurance coverage for Michigan's uninsured residents.

These recommendations—which include endorsing the Governor's Michigan First Health Care Plan—were supported for the first time by representatives from large and small businesses, local chambers of commerce, unions, insurers, health care plans, providers, and consumers.

All participants unanimously supported the goal of all Michigan residents having access to affordable, quality health insurance, and create a realistic direction for Michigan to improve its overall health care coverage.

The recommendations, when implemented, will secure access to health insurance coverage for the majority of Michigan's uninsured population.

Michigan Prescription Drug Discount Card

To make prescription medicines more accessible and more affordable for our most vulnerable citizens, Governor Granholm created the Michigan Prescription Drug Discount Card in September 2004.

With the use of this new discount card, uninsured and underinsured Michigan residents now get their prescription medication for less money at participating pharmacies. Beneficiaries of the MiRx Card program save an average of 20 percent off the retail prices they would normally pay as a cash customer.

Today, more than 37,000 Michigan citizens without prescription drug insurance benefit from this innovative discount program.

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Improving Mental Health

It was evident early in the Granholm Administration that preserving, improving, and enhancing the state's public mental health system was a priority.

In December 2003, Granholm established the Michigan Mental Health Commission—which recommended sweeping changes in both the delivery of service and the effectiveness of Michigan's mental health network.

The Commission's recommendations include:

- Continuing to use resources to support best practice and evidence-based research.
- Identifying children with disabilities and risk factors proactively in education and health care environments.
- Increasing recipient rights protection by strengthening accountability.
- Convening leaders to develop and launch a public education campaign for mental illness awareness.
- Developing uniform guidelines to determine eligibility for mental health services.
- Integrating mental health and physical health treatment.
- Actively including individuals with developmental disabilities, individuals with mental illness, and children with emotional disturbance by requiring community mental health boards to have adequate representation from these groups.

While substantive progress has been made toward accomplishing many of the recommendations, Michigan continues to apply the Commission's roadmap to improve the mental health system.

Supporting Seniors and the Disabled

Meeting the needs of Michigan's senior citizens and disabled citizens continues to be a priority.

In June 2005, Governor Granholm accepted recommendations from her 21-member Medicaid Long Term Care Task Force that called for the creation of an Office of Long Term Care Supports and Services.

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She also signed an Executive Order that created the office, which today has begun to assist in the development and implementation of policy and strategies for the task force recommendations.

The office coordinates Michigan's state-supported long term care supports and services. The office is a part of MDCH, which is responsible for reviewing and implementing the task force recommendations.

The executive order also created a Long Term Care Supports and Services Advisory Commission that advises the Long Term Care Supports and Services Office. More than 50 percent of the commission are consumers of long term care supports or services.

In 2004, MDCH—in full partnership with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—applied for and received a \$5 million grant to strengthen and improve Michigan's long term care criminal background check laws and to provide \$1.5 million in additional abuse and neglect training to thousands of Michigan long term care workers.

In 2005, Governor Granholm also announced a Jobs Today initiative to modernize 75 of Michigan's oldest nursing homes and replace them with homes that permit more privacy, dignity, and family-friendly designs.

In June 2006, Governor Granholm announced four groundbreaking awards worth \$34.83 million over two years for Long Term Care Single Point of Entry (SPE) demonstration sites in Michigan. The establishment of long term care SPEs was a key recommendation in the final report of the Medicaid Long Term Care Task Force.

Finally, in June 2006, Michigan consumers were provided online access to state pricing information for commonly prescribed prescription drugs searchable by pharmacy and region, making decision making and shopping easier.

The best available prices for commonly prescribed prescription drugs are now just a click away at www.michigandrugprices.com. Consumers can search prescription drug prices by pharmacy name, or by zip code. Users can select the pharmacy closest to them, or look at pharmacy prices from as far as 100 miles away from their homes.

Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles To Reduce Chronic Disease

In February 2003, Governor Granholm appointed the first state-level Surgeon General. Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom has advocated for public health, also serving as a liaison to the public, health care providers, legislators, and other public health stakeholders.

Throughout her tenure, Wisdom has pioneered the Michigan Steps Up program. This social marketing campaign promotes increased physical activity, healthy eating, and reduced tobacco use among Michigan citizens.

Public Health Preparedness

In 2005, MDCH received \$42 million in continued federal funding to help public health departments and hospitals in Michigan plan for and respond to terrorism and other public health emergencies.

With these considerable resources, MDCH continues to work with local health departments, hospitals, medical control authorities and emergency medical service agencies on efforts to ensure the health, safety and security of Michigan residents.

These public health resources have been used for real-time detection of public health threats, often before confirmed laboratory or diagnosis is available, rapid laboratory responses for testing chemical and biological agents, virtual alerting systems that immediately notify public health and health care officials during a crisis, and access to pharmaceutical and medical supplies.

In April 2006, MDCH, with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, held a statewide pandemic influenza summit in the city of Detroit to concretely address local, state, and federal preparedness activities associated with a potential pandemic influenza outbreak. State and federal officials signed a working agreement at the summit that clearly outlines state and federal responsibilities.

MDCH is in the process of creating a new preparedness web site, **www.michigan.gov/prepare**, which debuted in September 2006 and provide Michigan citizens with the latest information and resources to prepare their families for potential crisis. The state also showcased a newly created pandemic influenza tool kit in September 2006.



www.michigan.gov/prepare

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Addressing Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

With Governor Granholm's leadership, MDCH has made remarkable progress in our fight to eliminate childhood lead poisoning and protect Michigan's youngest citizens from the severe damage that can occur when lead accumulates in their bodies. More has been achieved in the last three years to impact childhood lead poisoning than had been done in the previous 20 years.

In July 2003, the Governor issued a call to action in response to alarming rates of lead poisoning and low testing rates across the state. This call to action report included establishing the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Statewide Task Force, which Surgeon General Wisdom co-chaired.

In 2004, the Governor supported and signed a package of six childhood lead poisoning prevention bills that initiated the following:

- A requirement for 80% testing levels among Medicaid providers by 2007.
- Mandated electronic reporting of blood lead tests by laboratories analyzing samples from Michigan citizens.
- Development of a "Lead-Safe" Housing Registry.
- Penalties for Rental Property Owners who knowingly rent dwellings with lead hazards.
- Establishment of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Commission.

Because of this increased emphasis on childhood lead poisoning testing, numbers for children younger than six years of age have increased dramatically. From 2004 to 2005, the number of Medicaid-eligible toddlers in Michigan who were tested for possible lead poisoning increased by more than 20 percent. A total of 100,181 children were tested in 2003, and more than 132,000 children were tested in 2005.

Health Disparities

With the help of the University of Michigan's School of Public Health Prevention Research Center, MDCH has awarded 12 community-level grants to provide evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention programs targeting racial and ethnic minorities. The National Office of Minority Health also awarded MDCH a grant to focus on African American men with health insurance who underutilize preventive care.

Eleven communities in Michigan with the highest African American infant death rates have been provided financial support and technical assistance to address health care systems issues with the goal of improving birth outcomes for black infants. Infant mortality coalitions also have been formed in each of the 11 communities.

Preventing Unintended Pregnancies

In an effort to reduce infant mortality, child abuse and neglect, and unintended pregnancies, MDCH implemented Plan First, a family planning service program in July 2006. Plan First offers family planning services to women who are not currently Medicaid eligible, do not have full family-planning benefits through private insurance, and who are low income. This innovative program is expected to reduce costs in the Medicaid program, as well as improve health and birth outcomes for thousands of women and infants in Michigan.

Plan First also assures availability of services statewide by extending the program to more than 200,000 women through a network of 150 clinics.

In addition to Plan First, Governor Granholm created a parent education program called Talk Early & Talk Often. This program focuses on giving parents the resources to address abstinence and sexuality issues with their middle school-aged children. By providing more access to family planning methods and comprehensive sexuality education for parents, the state of Michigan can help to ensure that every child is wanted.

Infectious Disease Prevention

The Granholm Administration, through MDCH, has strengthened the state's ability to respond to infectious diseases. While it is impossible to prepare for specific infectious diseases, Michigan has implemented a system to detect the emergence of threats to the public health, monitor the impact of diseases, and disseminate methods of intervention.

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To improve response time to an outbreak, MDCH developed the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS). MDSS is a web-based system that allows the state to share health information and expand the information electronically stored on infectious diseases. This system is able to link local health departments to the state's information. Currently, there are more than 800 registered users on the MDSS.

In addition, the state also has created the Michigan Health Alert Network (MiHAN). The MiHAN is a secure, Internet-based, two-way, emergency alert notification system that contains more than 3,400 participants from local health departments, hospitals, and clinics across the state.

Improving Health Outcomes For Children And Adolescents

MDCH Child and Adolescent Health Center (CAHCs) program services are aimed at achieving the best possible physical, intellectual, and emotional status of children and adolescents by providing services that are high quality, accessible, and acceptable to youth.

In 2005, MDCH oversaw the first major expansion of this vital health program—adding 33 additional clinical centers and 12 additional non-clinical centers. Today, there are 9 CAHCs in Detroit—seven of which were first funded in the 2005 expansion.

The clinical teen health center model provides on-site primary health care, psychosocial, health promotion and disease prevention education, and referral services. The non-clinical teen health center model focuses on case finding, screening, referral for primary care, and providing health education services to the teen population.

Today, because of MDCH's commitment to expanding these centers, the program administers 45 clinical child and adolescent health centers and 12 non-clinical health delivery sites located in 24 counties throughout Michigan.

The clinical program is targeted to uninsured, underinsured, and Medicaid children aged 5 to 10, youth aged 10 through 21, and infants and small children of eligible adolescents.

In 2004, these clinical health centers served more than 20,000 children and adolescents during 47,070 visits, and provided 64,424 health services and 3,190 referrals.


*center to coordinate
state efforts that
address physician
workforce challenges*



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**Loves school, science and people.
Excellent study habits.**

The healthcare industry in Michigan has grown tremendously and is vital to the economic stability of Michigan's communities. Healthcare is the single largest employment category in many of Michigan's communities, especially those in which a community hospital is located. The healthcare industry holds great promise for Michigan's future workforce. There are many potential job opportunities with over 200 different jobs in the healthcare field. The demand for health professionals will continue to increase dramatically. The use of

Michigan is addressing potential shortages in the state's nursing workforce, through the Governor's economic development plan and the MI Opportunity

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Partnership, which has provided more than \$17 million to 13 Michigan universities and community colleges to accelerate training for nurses and other health care professionals.



Helping to Stop Problem Gambling

The Michigan Department of Community Health launched a new problem gambling website, www.gamblersresponsibly.org to assist individuals who may have had a problem with gambling and others who want to avoid getting in over their heads.

Gambling can take many forms such as casino games, Internet gambling, office pools, sports betting or dice. This innovative website is designed to help people learn the warning signs of problem gambling while offering solutions on how to prevent gambling from getting the best of you.

www.gamblersresponsibly.org

Stopping the Spread of Meth

Governor Granholm has taken an aggressive stand on stopping the use and manufacture of methamphetamine (meth) in Michigan. She has signed several bills into law that have given law enforcement better tools to address the spread of meth and has signed legislation that will limit access to the key ingredients in the production of methamphetamine.

The Office of Drug Control Policy has also launched a web site to help increase awareness on the dangers of meth and to promote community intervention through education. The website, www.michiganmethwatch.org, includes information on what meth is, how to spot addiction, how to recognize if it is being created in your area and who to contact if you suspect it is being manufactured.



www.michiganmethwatch.org

CONCLUSION

While this document only provides an overview of the health care accomplishments of the Granholm Administration, it is clear that much has been done to improve and maintain the health of millions of Michigan citizens—due in large part to these comprehensive programs. MDCH will continue its work to make Michigan a safe and healthy state where all people realize their fullest health potential and live enriched and productive lives.

*Michigan Department
of Community Health*



Office of Drug Control Policy

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Janet Olszewski, Director

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